

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 21-28 are pending. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15 and 21-24 have been amended. Claims 2, 7 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 25-28 have been newly added. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Powell, U.S. Patent No. 5,721,788. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “wherein the processor embeds bits obtained by dividing plural bits of data, which describe information relating to the image processing performed on said original image data, in a part of the multiple bits expressing each of the pixels of said processed image data dispersed at a plurality of predetermined positions on an image represented by said processed image data.” Powell fails to teach or suggest these features.

Powell is directed to embedding signatures within visual images (abstract). Powell does not perform image processing on an original image and likewise does not embed bits which describe information relating to the image processing performed on the original image data into the pixels of the processed image data. The information which may be embedded according to Powell would only be information which relates to the signature which is being included in an image. This is not what is being claimed. Accordingly, Powell fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claims 6, 11 and 21 recite the features discussed above in connection with claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due

in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 32577-2009100.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Deborah S. Gladstein
Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753